

COUNCIL AGENDA: 10-19-04

ITEM: 5.2

# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Sara L. Hensley

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** 09-29-04

Approved

Date

10/7/04

**Council Districts:** 3 and 6

**SNI Area:** Washington

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE GUADALUPE RIVER TRAIL REACH 6 (WILLOW STREET TO HIGHWAY 280) MASTER PLAN**

## RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the Guadalupe River Trail Reach 6 (Willow Street to Highway 280) Master Plan.

CEQA: Mitigated Negative Declaration, PP04-03-102.

## BACKGROUND

In November 2000, San José voters approved a \$228 million Park and Recreation Bond Measure (Bond) for improvements and renovations of City parks and recreation facilities. The Bond provides \$2,110,000 for design and implementation of a trail along the Guadalupe River, from Highway 280 to Curtner Avenue. The Master Plan documents trail development from Willow Street to Highway 280, as flood control improvements that limit trail development have yet to be funded or scheduled for the area south of Willow Street.

The Guadalupe River begins at the confluence of Guadalupe Creek and Los Alamitos Creek, just south of Coleman Road and Almaden Lake Park. The river flows north towards the San Francisco Bay and terminates near Gold Street. North of Gold Street, the waterway is known as the Alviso Slough.

The trail, known as Reach 6 in the Guadalupe River system, extends from Willow Street to Highway 280. It will result in 1.15 miles of a new trail, an under-crossing at Virginia Street, a bridge structure over the river parallel to Caltrain tracks, and a bridge structure over Willow Street linking the trail to the Highway 87 bikeway.

The trail links to the existing trail along the Guadalupe River Park and will ultimately result in a 15-mile trail system when completed.

On October 29, 2002, the City Council approved a master agreement with The Planning Collaborative and an allocation of \$249,500 to render services for master planning, programming, community outreach and presentations, design and construction contract documents, bid and award support, and construction management support through project completion. Staff will return to Council at a later date for recommendations pertaining to development of construction documents and project oversight as part of the master agreement.

### **ANALYSIS**

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed to address technical challenges and to develop an alignment that meets the needs identified at community meetings and satisfies permitting requirements from all the stakeholder agencies. The following agencies were represented on the TAC:

- Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS)
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement (PBCE)
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- San José Redevelopment Agency (SJRA)
- Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)
- Caltrans
- Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority (VTA)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE)
- Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (PCJPB)/Caltrain
- Union Pacific Rail Road (UPRR)

Meetings of the TAC involved site walks, discussions on the existing environmental conditions, permit requirements, flood-control project coordination, impacts to current and future City and agency construction projects, and development of a preferred trail alignment.

The project is divided in the following manner:

- Phase 1 will result in a permanent trail from Highway 280 to Virginia Street, on the west side of the river. At Virginia Street, an on-street alignment will follow Harliss Avenue and Willow Street, with on-street access to the Highway 87 bikeway. Development of the SCVWD/Army Corps of Engineers flood control project was set to occur concurrently with trail construction, and the initial planning effort envisioned a permanent trail. However,

delays in the flood control project due to federal funding require that the Master Plan identify this interim trail on-street alignment.

- Phase 2 will occur after the flood control and railroad improvements are constructed. This phase will result in an underpass at Virginia Street, a new pedestrian bridge north of the existing railway and a new pedestrian bridge over Willow Street. A short on-street segment will be demarked on McLellan Avenue. At Willow Street, a small parking facility will be constructed to provide off-street access to support the trail, and a ramp system will be installed leading to a new pedestrian bridge over Willow Street linking the Highway 87 bikeway and VTA and Caltrain stations to the south.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Two community outreach meetings were held on August 27, 2003, and March 4, 2004. All input received was addressed or incorporated into the Master Plan. Support at both meetings was expressed for the trail alignment.

The preliminary Master Plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at its September 1, 2004 meeting. The Commission recommended the City Council's approval of the Master Plan.

### **COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Departments of Finance, Planning, Building and Code Enforcement, Transportation, Public Works; the City Attorney's Office and the City Manager's Budget Office.

### **COST IMPLICATIONS**

1. AMOUNT OF RECOMMENDATION: N/A
2. COST OF PROJECT\*:

Project Delivery	\$99,025
Master Agreement	\$249,500
TOTAL	\$348,525
3. SOURCE OF FUNDING: 471- Parks and Recreation Bond Projects Fund
4. FISCAL IMPACT: The estimated maintenance cost for Phase 1 of the project is approximately \$8,000 per year, beginning in March 2006. A schedule for Phase 2 is not known at this time, but is estimated to be approximately \$11,000.

The estimated management cost for services provided by park rangers is approximately \$2,200 per year beginning in March 2006.

This project is consistent with the Council-approved Budget Strategy Economic Recovery section in that it will spur construction spending in the City's local economy.

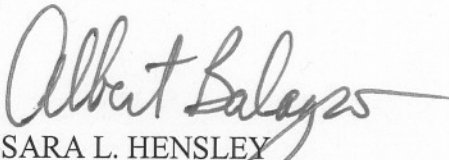
The project has been reviewed and was determined that it will have no significant adverse impact on the General Fund Operating Budget.

**BUDGET REFERENCE**

Fund #	Appn. #	Appn. Name	RC #	Total Appn.	Amt. For Contract	Adopted Budget Page	Last Budget Action (Date, Ord. No.)
471	6825	Guadalupe River Trail – Highway 280 to Curtner Avenue	123583	\$1,681,000	N/A	Appn. Ord. Section 31.01, page 5	6-22-2004, Ord. No. 27196
			Total	<b>\$1,681,000</b>			

**CEQA**

Mitigated Negative Declaration, PP04-03-102.

  
for SARA L. HENSLEY  
Director of Parks, Recreation  
and Neighborhood and Services